

*P. fuscescenti-cinereus, subtus dilutior: pileo et gutture flavescentibus: cumpteris clare castaneis: alis caudaque intus nigricanti-brunneis: rostro et pedibus nigris: tectricibus subalaribus albis.*

Long. tota 4·2, alæ 2·1, caudæ 1·9.

*Hab.* Texas (*Lawrence*).

*Note.*—Since writing the above, I have been enabled through Mr. Gould's kindness to compare *Psaltia flaviceps* with the type of the genus, *Psaltia exilis*, from Java. It certainly offers a more pointed beak and wing not so rounded as the latter bird, and may be considered as rather aberrant in form. Any naturalist, therefore, who is unwilling to class it with true *Psaltia* may use for it the generic term *Psaltiparus*, that name having been bestowed by Prince Bonaparte (*Compt. Rend. Ac. Sc. Par.* xxxi. p. 478) on *Psaltia melanotis* (Sandbach), with which species this bird agrees in every respect.

## 2. ON A PECULIAR VARIETY OF *MUS MUSCULUS*.

By JOHN S. GASKOIN, F.L.S.

(Mammalia, Pl. XLI.)

*MUS MUSCULUS.* Var. *Mus nudo-plicatus*.

I have thus designated this strange and novel form of the genus *Mus*, to give the more importance to the singularity.

In the spring of 1854 a labourer in the employ of Mr. Webster, a tenant on the Taplow-court estate, observed several little white creatures running about a straw-rick in the wood at the back of the lodge near Taplow paper-mills, Maidenhead Bridge, and succeeded in securing two of them;—the following day, on moving some of the straw in search of more, he disturbed two others, which he also captured; and disposed of the four to Bond, the Maidenhead Bridge boatman, for five shillings. Two died during the first night, probably from the rough usage they received when taken; there remained, to use Bond's expression, but "the old buck and a doe big with kit." In seven days she brought forth five young ones; and the next day removed from the nest two that were dead; the remainder were reared. One of the existing five was afterwards lost or killed. These little animals were readily recognized as a form of mouse, but of so extraordinary a conformation in their external structure as to attract the curiosity of the immediate neighbourhood, and obtained the not inappropriate name of the rhinoceros mice. The surmise of the people on the spot is, that they had escaped from one of the numerous barges which are constantly arriving at the paper-mills laden with rags, &c., principally of foreign importation. Bond having possessed them four months, offered them for sale to the Zoological Society of London, and the purchase being declined, I bought them, lest so singular a form in natural history should be lost to science and pass into oblivion; and it is to prevent this, that I now



